THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) On completion of the alleged ISRO espionage case, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) have filed a final report before the Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM), Erankulam, praying for discharge of all the six accused persons, as there was no espionage involved. The CJM, in his order dated 2.5.1996, agreeing with the report of the CBI, discharged all the six accused.

Subsequently, however, the Government of Kerala have issued Notifications withdrawing the consent accorded to the CBI for investigating the alleged espionage case and ordered a further investigation in the case by the Kerala Police. The decision of the Government of Kerala for further investigating the case has been upheld by the Kerala High Court.

Three of the accused persons in the case and the CBI have separately filed special leave Petitions in the Hon'ble Supreme Court challenging the judgement of the Kerala High Court. The matter is presently sub judice.

Liquified Natural Gas Base

1921. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has submitted any proposal by Union Government for setting up a Liquified Natural Gas Base at the sea-shore of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by the Union Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

UPSC Examinations

1922. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Public Service Commission proposed to hold examination in regional languages;

(b) if so, whether priority will be given to those taking examination in the official language (Hindi); and

(c) whether some additional per cent would be given to candidates belonging to non-Hindi speaking States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHIR. S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) The Question of introduction of all the Indian languages included in the VIIIth schedule to the constitution in the examinations conducted by the UPSC was examined by Dr. Satish Chandra Committee. Its recommendations are still under examination. As the issues are important and have evoked diverse reaction. Government's effort is to arrive at a consensus.

(b) and (c) In view of (a), does not arise.

[English]

Capart

1923. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of projects being undertaken under the CAPART in Orissa for the last two years;

(b) the amount sanctioned and actually released for those projects during the above period; and

(c) the achievements made so far from these projects in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) During the last two years, i.e. 1994-95 and 1995-96, CAPART has sanctioned 211 projects to voluntary organisations in Orissa covering the programmes/schemes of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Development of Women & Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP), Promotion of Voluntary Action in Rural Development (PC), Organisation of Beneficiaries (OB), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) and Advancement of Rural Technology Scheme (ARTs). During this period, the amount sanctioned and the amount released to voluntary organisations in Orissa by CAPART was Rs. 791.80 crores and Rs. 504.00 crores respectively. The sanctioned projects are at various stages of implementation.

Joint-Venture Power Project

1924. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI SUBRAHMANYAM NELAVALA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation is proposing to set up 500 MW thermal power plant as a joint venture project with the APSEB at Visakhapatnam;

(b) if so, the capacity and total cost of expenditure involved in setting up this power project;

(c) whether the project is to be based on residual produce from the Viskhapatnam HPCL unit as a fuel; and